

## **STATEMENT OF HUNGARY**

**Statement following panel discussion 2 focusing on „The role of the Water Convention in fostering peace”.**

**by**

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**at the 9th Meeting of the Parties**

**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International  
Lakes**

**In person, 29 September 2021**

**11.00 a.m. – 13.00 p.m. (Geneva time)**

Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies, Delegates, Dear Participants,

It is my pleasure and honor to represent Hungary, a country having long history of water management, gaining valuable experiences in transboundary cooperation and being an active member of the Water Convention since its establishment.

We are very proud that during our chairmanship the Convention became global, and it is open now for any UN member state to join. The progress of accession is accelerating, which well indicates the growing recognition of the necessity of transboundary cooperation on shared basins, aquifers, backed by appropriate legal and institutional framework.

We all are aware of the crucial role of water for the life on our Planet, for the prosperity of people. Since the availability of this still undervalued precious natural resource is limited, the potential conflicts over water are emerging within and beyond state borders due to increasing water demand.

Increasing water demand – due to population growth, economic development, climate change and other factors - might increase the potential of conflicts between upstream and downstream countries related to water quality and quantity. According to our experiences Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management shall be applied to foster peaceful solutions for coexistence.

I would refer in this regard to the Balkan Region, where the establishment of the Sava Commission also contributed to the consolidation in the post war period through joint management of the shared water resources. I believe that even during political tension, technical cooperation shall accelerate the peaceful solutions.

The Water Convention is an excellent tool to facilitate transboundary cooperation. Its more than 20 years of successful existence has already proved it. As evidence of its adaptability allow me just to mention the widely recognised Danube cooperation framework (ICPDR) on the most international river basin, or our bilateral cooperation with our 7 neighbouring countries which are following also the provisions/principles of the Water Convention.

We all are fully aware that transboundary water cooperation is a politically sensitive, complicated issue with many obstacles which can be overcome by patient and trust building approach only. The Water Convention offers forward looking possible solutions with long term perspective. The tools developed during the last few years like the “Handbook on water allocation” and the “Guide on development of agreements” are suggested to be used in the future extensively to successfully settle ongoing disputes or prevent them.

Hungary also believes that the Water Convention’s activities foreseen in the next 3 years work program will contribute to the peaceful cooperation between and among nations.

Thank you for your kind attention!